

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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CASH RAISED FOR FAMILY HELP UNIT

LORD Butler of Saffron Walden, will lay the foundation stone of The Spastics Society's fifth Family Help Unit at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, this month. The stone will be laid at a ceremony on February 24th, and it is expected that the Unit will be completed by the end of the year.

The Unit will cost about £50,000. A fund-raising campaign known as the Five Counties Appeal, was started just over a year ago to raise the money, and Lord Butler was its President.

Campaign Director, Mr. Peter Brown, said the Appeal had been highly successful, and the target had been reached. Any money received in excess of the target would go towards running costs which would

raised by the end of September 1969.

"In fact we were about £3,000 off this target at the end of September," said Mr. Brown. "But the benefactor felt that the campaign was going very well and decided to contribute half of his gift, and the remainder when the balance of the £30,000 was raised. We passed the £30,000 mark shortly before Christmas."

The Bury St. Edmunds Family Help Unit will provide short term care for up to 10 children between the ages of two and 16 years. They will stay at the Unit at times of domestic crisis

(Contd. on Page 4)



Lord Butler

amount to about £15,000 a year.

Mr. Brown said the Appeal had been boosted by a generous donation of £20,000. The sum was promised anonymously on the condition that £30,000 was



FIVE soccer experts last month picked a powerful international team — that will never play together. The experts, Kenneth Wolstenholme, Stan Cullis, Tommy Docherty,

John Charles and Peter Doherty, had the task of picking a hypothetical United Kingdom team to contest the World Cup.

Their selection on a flexible

4-2-4 formation was — Banks (Stoke), Reaney (Leeds), J. Charlton (Leeds), Moore (West Ham), Cooper (Leeds), Bremner (Leeds), Ball (Everton), Lee (Manchester City), Hurst (West Ham), R. Davies (Southampton), Best (Manchester United). Their five reserves for travelling with the party were: Bonetti (Chelsea), Hunter (Leeds), Bell (Manchester City), Madeley (Leeds), R. Charlton (Manchester United).

Reason for picking the team was a 'bonus' competition for members of the Spastic League Club in which the prizes are 25 double tickets for a three-weeks holiday in Mexico, including Grade 'A' tickets for the World Cup games, accommodation at top class hotels, plus spending money for the trip.

Photograph shows from left to right: Stan Cullis, Kenneth Wolstenholme, John Charles and Peter Doherty.

Former Oakwood student, June Maelzar, of North West London, is now studying at Manchester University. She hopes to take up a career in social work.

A free gift to get you taped

WHO would like a tape recorder? What's even better — as a free gift. Spastics News has been asked to help give one away.

The tape recorder is a second act of generosity by artist John Neil. We told you about him in Spastics News last month. How he had read a review of Miss Anita Hunt's book "Caring for the Severely Subnormal", which was published by The Spastics Society, and was so moved at

the plight of subnormal children that he organised an office collection on their behalf. The money he raised was used to buy toys, and these were presented by Miss Hunt to the children of Darent Park Hospital, Dartford, Kent, just before Christmas.

Now Mr. Neil has given Miss Hunt a tape recorder, second-hand but in very good condition, and asked her to present it to the individual spastic, the

School or Centre for spastics, or Local Group, which needs it most.

What you have to do to put in your claim is to write to Miss Hunt, c/o Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, saying why you would like the tape recorder.

For the technically minded — the tape recorder is a mono three-speed model (7½-3½-1½ i.p.s.) complete with microphone. Maximum spool size is 5½ ins.



These legs are made for running

THE Stars Organisation for Spastics is placing its hopes on Christine Holmes, in the Jif Superstar Charity Pancake Race, to be held at Battersea Park, London, on Shrove Tuesday.

Christine, 21, stands to win £1,000 for the Stars if she wins the race. Second prize is £500 and third is £250. No-matter how she is placed in the race she cannot lose. For every charity represented receives £100.

Attractive blonde Christine is currently recording and making television appearances with "The Family Dogg" pop group which has had several records in the hit parade. She is also performing her stunning cabaret act all over the country.

In addition to the Pancake Race, Jif is sponsoring a competition to see which charity can collect the largest number of Jif collar-ettes. The sum of £1,250 will be divided among nine charities according to the number of collar-ettes they collect.

Thief steals Sonia's radio

For Sonia Adams, 22, a spastic from Daresbury Hall Residential Centre, her transistor radio was a constant companion. Listening to the radio was her favourite pastime.

But while she was staying at the home of her step-brother in St. Helen's, Lancashire, recently, the radio was stolen. Sonia was very upset, because the radio had been given to her as a 21st birthday present. Now police are investigating.

£605 brings David that independent feeling

HAPPIEST man at Gladys Holman House, The Spastics Society's Adult Residential Centre at Camborne, Cornwall, these days is David Morgan. He has won £605 on the Spastic League Club pool.

David, who is 36, has been a resident at the Centre for two years and was previously at a Society Centre in Essex. He is a popular member of the community and because he is able to walk makes himself very useful about the Centre,

assisting the staff and helping fellow residents who are confined to wheelchairs. Everybody is delighted at David's good fortune.

He has no plans for a spending spree with his prize. There will be a present for his mother, and David may buy himself a new suit, but the bulk of the cash will be deposited in the bank. And David says he is greatly looking forward to the feeling of independence which a nest egg in the bank provides.



A "PRIDE" OF MINISTERS

A "PRIDE" of ex-Ministers of Health, as they were described by Sir Harry Platt, President and Founder Member of the Central Council for the Disabled, were present at a luncheon—sponsored by the Rt. Hon. George Darling, M.P. — at the House of Commons recently.

Sir Harry and Cecilia Lady Sempill, Chairman, were hosts to nearly 50 guests, including representatives of medical bodies and others working in the field of the disabled, invited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Central Council.

The ex-Ministers of Health were: Mr. H. Marquand 1951, Mr. R. Turton 1955-57, Sir D. Walker-Smith 1957-60, Mr. E. Powell 1960-63, Mr. A. Barber 1963-64 and Mr. K. Robinson 1964-69. Mr. Crossman, who was away with influenza, was represented by Mr. J. Dunwoody, his Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

Sir George Godber, Chief Medical Officer of Health, described by Sir Harry as "the man who took the nation's pulse" paid eloquent tribute to

"a voluntary body who so often had been able to do things which the statutory authority had not." He said that the Central Council "in 50 great pioneering years in the cause of the disabled had broadened and strengthened its activities and was still adjusting to the times."

Mr. E. S. Evans, Chairman of the Central Council's Executive Committee described some of the onerous tasks that lay ahead, ending a memorable occasion with the encouraging promise that: "Tomorrow's world, we believe, will bring many new advantages to the disabled as an age of technology combines electronics and plastics in serving men's needs."

Tips to solve your jewellery problems

JEWELLERY provides that extra touch which set off your new dress — a brooch pinned in just the right place to emphasise a neck line, or a necklace or pendant, earrings which pick up the colour or soften the effect of a severe hairstyle, gay glittery baubles which appease an age-old desire for adornment. This is all very well but mostly these bits and pieces, small as they are present alarming difficulties because of their fiddly fastenings and you have to wait for someone to put them on for you. (And no one else can ever pin a brooch exactly where you want it).

Here are a few solutions. First, a set of rules to be adhered to when buying jewellery and to be drummed into present - buying friends and relations.

Earrings should have clips because screws require two good hands and so do pierced earlobes. Large earrings, which give you something to

grip are easier to put on — usually the clip is bigger and easier to manage too. If they nip your lobes, glue little circles of rubber foam onto the earring side of the clip.

Fastenings

Necklaces — the long hippy ropes which go round and round, with no fastening, or one you can ignore, are easiest. If they are beads, make sure the thread is knotted between each bead, then the inevitable rough treatment won't scatter them all over the room. Pop-pets are a boon but need fairly good co-ordination. For really desperate cases get the beads threaded on fine elastic. As for necklaces joined by fine wire chains, it is worth getting a kind friend to go over them with a pair of pliers, to make sure all the little hooks are firmly closed.

The only feasible, and operable, fastenings are the large hook and eye type or, better

still, a hook which will go onto any part of a chain — the odds of fastening it are much higher. The beastly little screw fastenings are out, and so are those frightful little circles needing two very steady hands and a deft thumb nail.

Brooches' all have fiddly catches, with which you can do yourself some damage into the bargain. The way to tackle this one is to experiment to find the exact place where you want to pin it, and mark it with some chalk. (At a pinch, an Aspirin tablet will do!) Then take off your dress, sweater, or jacket and pin the brooch into place. I know it sounds the long way round but most often it is a lot less exhausting and dangerous to do it this way.

If the brooch gets transferred to other garments it is almost worth marking the spot with a small contrasting stitch to save time when next wearing. It's better still to be able to leave it pinned on. A friend of mine refers to this ploy as 'instant jewellery'.

S. K.

MUSIC BRIDGED THE LANGUAGE GAP WHEN JOAN WENT TO HONG KONG

WHEN the tropical mid-afternoon sun is beating down, and the shade temperature is in the 80's, few people feel like singing Christmas carols. But entertainer Joan Turner—a Stars Organisation for Spastics member—found that singing Christmas carols was the best way to delight her young audience when she visited a hospital for disabled children in Hong Kong recently.

Miss Turner called in at the Sandy Bay Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and Convalescent Home during a tour of South-East Asia. "The visit turned into a three-hour concert," she said. "A piano was carried out onto the lawn and our audience of disabled children gathered round. We discovered that the only English songs they knew were Christmas carols. So despite the fact that it was like a really hot summer's day, we sang 'Silent Night' and 'Jingle Bells'.

SPASTIC PATIENTS

"The hospital is run by the Society for the Relief of Disabled Children, Hong Kong, and many of the children there were spastics. The hospital admitted children suffering from all kinds of disability, and there were some orphan refugees from Com-

munist China, who had been maimed escaping.

"There was one very severely handicapped spastic who, despite his disabilities, had managed to learn to play the mouth organ. He closed the concert by playing 'Silent Night'.

"Because only a few of the children spoke English there was little point in performing my usual act for them. But we did part of it and one of the children who spoke English translated."

FITS OF LAUGHTER

Miss Turner is pictured left with pianist Paul Horner and a young spastic boy who had become the hospital's unofficial comedian. "He was a real little clown," she said. "He had irons on both his legs and was unable to walk properly, so I had to carry him up to the piano. Then he kept calling things out to the audience in his own language. I don't know what he said, but he had them in fits of laughter."

Joan Turner has been a member of the S.O.S. for five years. "I have two daughters of my own," she said, "and visiting so many disabled children makes me realise how lucky I am that they are not handicapped."

Working for Christmas '70

THE Parents' Association of Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society has raised £450 by the sale of goods which members have made themselves. During 1969 these workers, led by Mrs. E. Skelton, made 2,500 calendars from used cigarette packets and 1,000 jotters with gay pictorial covers.

Another working party in the same area re-made 20,000 Christmas cards which sold at a total of £300 for Group funds.

No sooner was Christmas 1969 over than the workers were busy preparing for Christmas 1970, when several new lines will be introduced.

The Group, which has to find at least £5,500 a year to keep its two Centres and other services going, also held many other fund-raising activities during the year. Expenses were kept to the minimum, so that 18s. out of every pound raised could be used for direct help to spastics.

Honour among thieves?

Under cover of a sing-song in the bar, thieves broke into the Coach and Horses public house in Manor Park, East London, recently. They stole £800 from a safe in the manager's office, but did not touch three sacks of pennies which had been collected by customers for spastics.

Junior shopkeepers



EMPLOYMENT MOVES AND NEWS

RECENT employment moves and news are as follows (training centres in brackets): John Bailey from Leigh, Lancs. (Lancaster) is now working as a Hoffman Press operator for a firm in West-boughton.

Geoffrey Baker from Bristol (Sherrards) is employed as a sewing machinist at Remploy.

Arthur Batten from Portsmouth is working locally as a machine operator.

Alan Bellew from Bristol (Sherrards) is employed as a sewing machinist at Remploy.

Sandra Booker from Glastonbury (Lancaster) is doing general clerical work for a firm in Street.

Jacqueline Calvert from Hornsey (Sherrards) is working as a trainee machine engraver for a firm of nameplate manufacturers in South Tottenham.

Paul Charnock from Blackpool (Lancaster) is working locally as a trainee welder.

Lee Kendrick from Dagenham (Lancaster) is employed as a junior clerk in Barking.

Terry Lamb from Aveley (Sherrards) is employed on woodwork assembly by a timber company in Rainham.

Graham Maple from Leeds (Lancaster) is working locally as a telephonist.

John Naish from Coombe Down (Lancaster) has a new job and is now employed on battery testing for a firm in Hawthorne, nr. Bath.

Roland Pinder from Hebden Bridge (Lancaster) is working as a machine operator for an engineering firm near Halifax.

The Mayor of Workington, Mr. J. E. Miller, inspects the window of a "Spastic Shop," before declaring it officially open. All the goods on sale were collected, priced and arranged by pupils of Harrington Junior School, Workington, Cumberland.

(Photo by Alec Scott, Workington)

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

TRAINING COURSES FOR

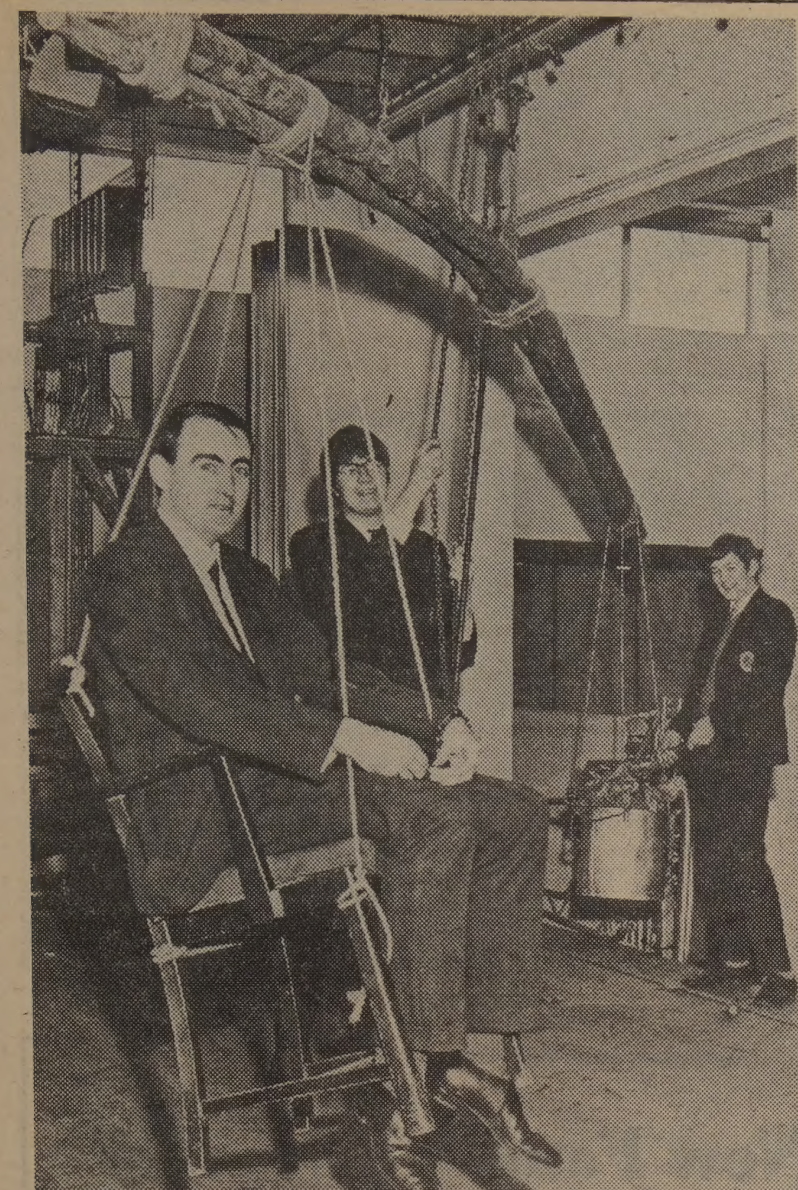
HOUSEPARENTS/CARE STAFF—1970/71

- Residential Care of Handicapped Children
- Care of Handicapped Adults.

Applications are invited for these two 15-month Residential Courses at Castle Priory College, Wallingford, commencing in September 1970. Candidates must have at least one year's full-time experience of work with children or adults, and the minimum age for consideration is 18 years.

Both courses include practical periods spent in special schools for handicapped children, care units for the mentally handicapped, and other residential situations, as well as sessions in College. The courses work in parallel and give all participants a general awareness of the work encountered in a whole range of care establishments, while enabling them to develop particular skills for the two main fields of work.

Requests for application forms and other information, including financial arrangements, should be made forthwith to the Tutor Organiser, Castle Priory College, Wallingford, Berks.



Mr. N. Jenkins, a master of King James' Grammar School, Huddersfield, is worth his weight in pennies, according to pupils—£50 to be precise. This novel way of raising funds for spastics was suggested at a form captains' meeting. A set of scales was set up in the gymnasium, with Mr. Jenkins precariously seated at one end and a bucket at the other into which pupils shovelled pennies. Photograph shows Mr. Jenkins suspended in mid-air, with Ian Hinchcliffe (centre) and John Maloney assisting at the weigh-in.

(Photo by courtesy of Huddersfield Daily Examiner)



Julia Jones, 7, makes friends with this cuddly teddy bear at a bazaar which raised £800 for the Croydon and District Spastics Society. Looking on are helpers Mrs. P. Jones and Mrs. S. Hawgood and Julia's grandfather, Mr. C. L. Jones.

(Photo by courtesy of Croydon Advertiser)



One of the stalls at a Rainbow Bazaar, which raised over £300 for the Southend and District Spastics Society.

(Photo by courtesy of the Southend Standard)

The news in pictures



Mr. Alexander S. Robertson, who recently retired after 15 years as General Secretary of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, was presented with a television set by friends and former colleagues in the Council. Picture shows (left to right): Mr. W. V. Anderson, Chairman of the Council's Eastern Region, Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson.



Heads or tails? It makes no difference—either way the spastics win. This pile of pennies, being knocked over by Maureen McLellan, 19, of Featherby Road, Gillingham, contained £31, which was raised for the Medway Towns and District Spastics Group. The pub is the Two Brothers, at Chatham.

(Picture by courtesy of Chatham News)



Harold Rhodes, former England and Derbyshire bowler, presents a cheque to Alderman Mrs. Anne Yates, Chairman of Notts County Council, for Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group. The money had been raised by Roth's Amateur Cricket Club. The presentation means that a total of £2,664 has now been donated by the club to the Group.

(Photo by L. F. Brownlow, Nottingham)

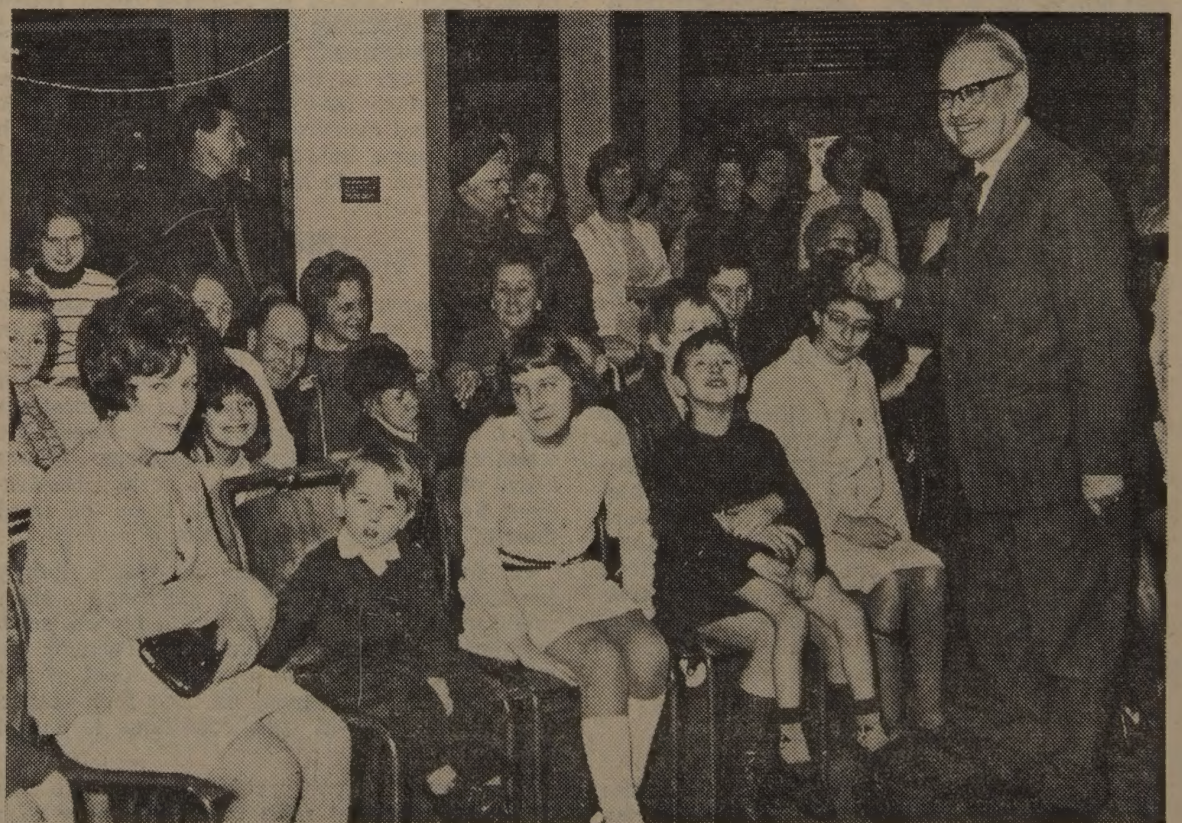


Mr. Anthony Holden, Chairman of Stockport Model Aero Club, presents a £50 cheque to Mr. Joe Garner, Chairman of Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society. The money was raised at a model aeroplane rally.

(Photo by courtesy of Stockport Express)



Alderman W. G. Dyer, C.B.E., Lord Mayor of Nottingham, together with Mr. H. E. Wolff, Chairman of Nottingham Group, are seen presenting two cheques of over £2,000 to local winners of the Spastics Pool. Alderman Dyer also presented a cheque for Group funds to Mr. Wolff, on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.



Some of the 120 spastics and their parents who attended the Christmas party of the Hull and District Spastics Society at the Francis Reckitt Institute, Hull, are seen being addressed by their President, Mr. Leslie Spooner (right), who also appeared as Santa Claus.

(Photo by courtesy of Hull Daily Mail)

Please give more jobs to disabled says Mrs. Castle

MRS. BARBARA CASTLE, First Secretary and Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity, has written to the President of the Confederation of British Industry, the nationalised industries and all local authority associations, seeking their help and support in appealing to employers to find more jobs for registered disabled people.

There has been a steady rise in recent years in the number of disabled people seeking work. At the same time, there is an increasing number of employers who are unable to satisfy their statutory obligation to include three per cent disabled people among their total staff.

Mrs. Castle, acknowledging the goodwill and co-operation of employers towards the disabled in the past, wants them nevertheless to look again, critically and urgently, at the possibility of making more openings available. Particularly, she wants them to consider not only those kinds of jobs traditionally done by the disabled, but also the new occupations created in recent years by technical and organisational changes.

Mrs. Castle has given her assurance that D.E.P. employment exchanges are anxious to help all they can those employers who make a response. The CBI is bringing the appeal to the notice of all its members; and other organisations written to have indicated their willingness both to support and publicise this appeal.

Footnote: At April 21, 1969, there were 645,545 people registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts 1944 and 1958. Of these, 70,568 were registered as unemployed.



Parents and children attending a party at the Watford Spastics Centre were entertained by ventriloquist 'Uncle Jo' Weldon and his dummy 'Tich.' (Photo by courtesy of Watford Evening Echo)

(Continued from Page 1)

New Family Help Unit

or illness, and to allow their families to take a holiday. And some will spend regular periods there to relieve their parents from the continuous and arduous task of caring for them.

An opportunity will be provided for some parents to stay at the Unit with their children, so that the experienced staff can help and guide them in looking after young spastics.

A short stay at a Family Help Unit is usually of great benefit to the child, as well as to its parents. Handicapped children are often unable to play around the house like their normal brothers and sisters, and therefore their social and emotional development is impaired. By playing with other children in supervised activity rooms at a Family Help Unit, their development is often improved dramatically.

The ladies' sub-committee of the Kidderminster and District Spastics Association raised £197 at a recent coffee morning.



NOW that the magic word "holidays" has once again appeared in the columns of your paper, may I remind your readers that this Trust not only provides holiday care for severely subnormal spastic children in our seaside home in Norfolk, but also runs holiday "Weeks" for physically handicapped adolescents, during July and August.

These holiday centres are based at public schools belonging to various Religious Orders, and sixth formers volunteer to help to care for and entertain their guests, ranging from eight to eighteen years of age. Any degree of physical handicap can be accepted, and a very "special" holiday is guaranteed.

Early application should be made to the Welfare Secretary.

For the information of readers who are not handicapped, may I add that there is always an opportunity for young volunteers to gain experience and give service to the handicapped in our Homes.

ELIZABETH FITZROY,
Welfare Secretary,
The Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes
for the Handicapped Trust,
St. Dominics,
Daux Avenue,
Billingshurst,
Sussex.

WASHING WENT UP IN SMOKE

A cleaner's keen sense of smell averted what could have been a serious fire at The Spastics Society's Hostel, Thornton Heath. The cleaner thought she smelled something burning, and with one of the Hostel's residents set out to investigate.

They found smoke pouring from a washing machine. The Fire Brigade was called, and the fire was put out before it could spread.

The only damage caused was to the machine and the clothing inside it.

MET AT PARTY—NOW THEY

WILL MARRY

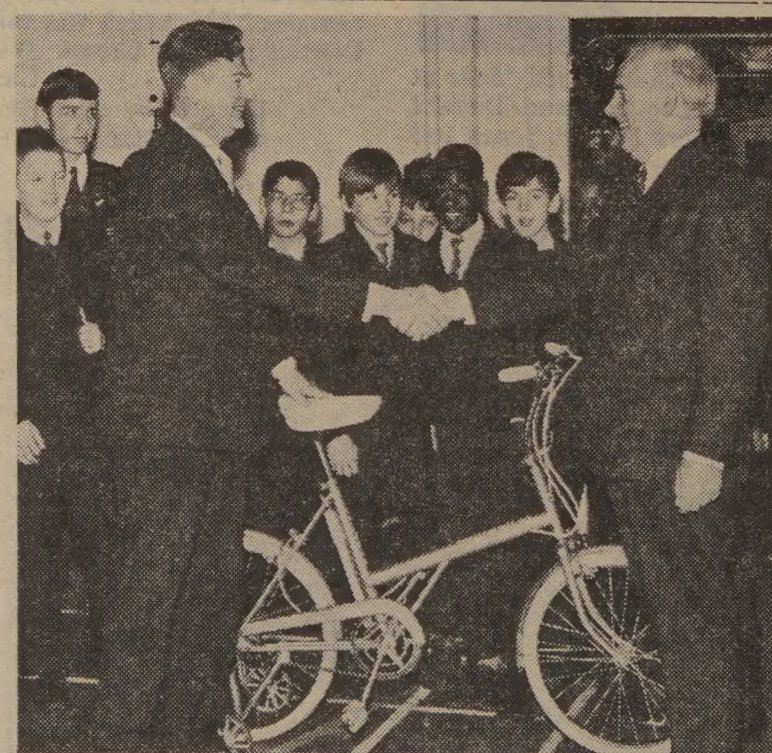


Melvin Rooks, 38, and Margaret Phillips, 28, of Blackpool, have announced their engagement. Both are spastics, employed at the Work Centre for physically handicapped people run by the Welfare Services Department of Blackpool Corporation. They first met at a party about a year ago.

Melvin says that he spent 15 years in a wheelchair but once he started to walk, he never used a chair again. As he is a keen cricket fan, it is appropriate that his first steps were taken with the aid of a cricket bat.

Margaret feels that her horizons have widened considerably since meeting Melvin. Before that, she had never been out of Blackpool, but now the couple go on frequent excursions together.

(Photo by courtesy of West Lancashire Evening Gazette)



Boys of Cairns House at the Henry Compton Boys' School, Fulham, have bought a specially-adapted bicycle for spastics and other physically handicapped children attending the Cotswold Secondary School in Streatham. The bicycle which cost £30, was purchased with contributions from the boys' own pocket money.

Four of the boys went along to the presentation at Cotswold School, accompanied by their House Master, Mr. V. C. Vout, seen here (right) receiving the congratulations of Mr. Donald Green, Headmaster of the Henry Compton School.

(Photo by courtesy of the Fulham Chronicle)

KALEIDESCOPE

by Anne Plummer

So many design problems to be solved

MINE must be one of the few voices raised in favour of the new 50 penny piece. I like it because it is easier to handle than a note and if dropped, it will not roll or blow away. Most people would disagree, however, which only goes to show that the designers haven't a hope of pleasing all the people all the time.

It is the same with design for the disabled. Apart from the obvious, excellent items like the POSSUM and electrically operated wheelchairs, most gadgets purpose-built for the handicapped have only a very limited market. Disabled people usually find it more convenient to shop around for some commercially-manufactured product and adapt it to individual needs.

Two people suffering from different kinds of cerebral palsy can present quite opposite problems of hand control. For athetoids, stability is all-important. They need firm, heavy tableware and kitchen utensils as ballast to counteract sudden involuntary movements. Plastic is quite useless in this context, apart from the obvious advantage of being unbreakable. The true spastic, on the other hand, with poor muscle tone, needs light equipment. Products specially designed for arthritics can often help here.

Those Steps

For the wheelchair-bound, steps are the greatest bugbear. Local authorities are gradually becoming more enlightened about this. They will sometimes provide ramps at the entrances to public buildings or slopes at street crossings instead of kerbstones. Progress, however, is very slow and one of the greatest difficulties can

be in getting the problem across to the appropriate official.

In Chesham, Bucks., a chairbound housewife fought for three months to get a small section of pavement lowered so that she could retain a cherished modicum of independence by doing her own shopping. Council workmen finally lowered it, but in the wrong place — in the middle of a busy lay-by where parked cars made it difficult and dangerous for her to get through during shopping hours. So she still has to get somebody else to do her shopping.

Offenders

It was encouraging to see that the organisers of a recent charity bazaar at Dewsbury Town Hall, Yorks, had built a special ramp down to the basement entrance for the convenience of wheelchair users. However, other organisations which cater for the disabled are sometimes the worst offenders in this matter of steps. I have heard of a college attached to a certain Government Rehabilitation Unit which is on the third floor of a building without a lift.

In snowy weather, even the more lightly handicapped spastic can be marooned. Main roads seem to be cleared fairly quickly but snow is often left lying about on the pavements for weeks, trodden down to a smooth sheet of ice. For people at all unsteady on their feet, venturing out of doors in such conditions is a real nightmare.

Non-slip soles can provide an answer to this problem. The best seem to be in rubber with deep crinkled ridges like a relief map of the Himalayas. They make such a difference to one's stability on slippery pavements that I am surprised the footwear manufacturers do not advertise this type of sole more widely.

Events for all in area games

DATES have been set for the area games to be held as preliminaries to the 1970 National Spastics Games. Competitors for the National Games, to be sponsored by Regional Pool Promotions, will be selected at the area games.

The dates and venues are as follows. Area one games at Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, on June 6; area two at Keswick Hall Training College, Norwich, on June 13; area three at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury, on June 20; area 4 at Junior Leaders Regiment, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, on May 30; area five at Further Education Centre, Lancaster, on May 23; area six at Harlow Wood Orthopaedic Hospital, Mansfield, on May 16; and area seven at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, on May 9.

Events for the games are as follows:

Junior: precision javelin, club, medicine ball (four pounds), light shot, wheelchair dash, wheelchair slalom, tricycle slalom, wheelchair relay, tricycle relay, 40 metre race, relay race.

Senior: 60 metre race, relay,

distance javelin, precision javelin, discus, shot, club, medicine ball or light shot, wheelchair race, wheelchair slalom, wheelchair relay.

Adult: 60 metre race, relay, distance, javelin, precision javelin, discus shot, club, medicine ball or light shot, wheelchair race, wheelchair slalom, wheelchair relay.

SWIMMING

Mr. A. T. S. Edwards, Physical Education Advisor to The Spastics Society, said it was impossible to hold swimming events in the area games. But it was hoped to arrange a swimming gala for September or October 1970.

He said amendments to the rules for the games were available, and copies of these would be sent to people who had rule books, on application. Amended rule books are available at 7s. 6d. each.

Sports equipment and clothing could be ordered through Mr. Edwards. This ensures standardisation of equipment, and enables purchasers to take advantage of a discount scheme.

Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Edwards at The Spastics Society, 8 Starve-crow Close, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent.



Bubbly launches beetle drive

VERA LYNN pours a glass of bubbly over the bonnet of this spanking new Volkswagen, to launch the "Bob for a Beetle" project being held in aid of Wakes Hall, the Stars Organisation for Spastics Adult Residential Centre.

The project is being sponsored by the V.W. Owners Club at Colchester. The Club is raffling the car at 1s. a ticket to raise money for spastics.

The launching ceremony took place at a Colchester pub. Afterwards the beetle was put on display at the Camping Exhibition at Olympia, where tickets were sold. Stars who helped to promote the project at Olympia included David Jacobs and Susan Hampshire.

Among those watching Vera Lynn's launching ceremony are actor John Horsley and band-leader Ron Goodwin.

Picture by courtesy of Essex County Standard

'Why not share headquarters?'

A MULTI-PURPOSE headquarters which will be shared by three local voluntary organisations has been suggested for Thurrock, Essex. The bodies concerned are Thurrock and District Spastics Society, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Scouts, all of whom have had difficulty in finding suitable premises.

The idea comes from local solicitor Mr. Michael Stubbs, who is Chairman of the Round Table Social Services Committee. He has a possible site in mind for the building and is meeting representatives of the three groups to discuss the project.

Mr. Stubbs said: "At first sight the activities of these organisations appear complementary rather than competitive. Between them they could have a building with amenities which they could not otherwise afford."

Link-up urged of Societies for handicapped

A WALSALL, Staffs., Councillor, Mr. Bernard Blundell, has suggested a major link-up of organisations for the disabled in his area.

The idea was prompted by the New Year message from Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society. Commenting on Mr. Burn's statement that the disabled were being treated as second-class citizens, Councillor Blundell said: "I would like to see many constructive moves made which will deal with this problem in an up-to-date

manner." Councillor Blundell, who is founder-secretary of the Brownhills Fellowship for the Physically Handicapped, said that a local committee made up of representatives from similar groups in the area might produce the kind of result Mr. Burn wished to see.

Councillor Blundell also wants a special club for young disabled people. "I do not know of a youth club for the handicapped anywhere in our area," he said.

Orders from Greece for homeworkers

The Spastics Society's Homework Manager, Mr. Arthur Dobson, reports a successful year in 1969. Two training courses were held for homeworkers and 20 new recruits

placed on the register.

With the excellent support of local Groups, sales figures continued to improve and export orders were received from as far afield as Greece.

News of the Department's activities also reached Australia, where the Spastic Children's Society of Victoria is keen to start a similar scheme.



A celebration luncheon at The Spastics Society's Sherrards Training Centre was invaded by a gang of pirates and their cargo of slave girls. They were members of staff who had dressed up to serve lunch to the trainees.

(Photo by courtesy of Welwyn Times)

WILL 1970 BRING ANSWERS TO URGENT QUESTIONS?

LOOKING back in time is seldom a very productive process but it is difficult not to steal another glance at a rather remarkable year.

Whatever the message of 1969 may have been, to those of us involved in the health and welfare services it will be a year remembered for its reports, and the drama that surrounded their arrival. Seebohm clearly made his impact on the service and appears to have had a generally acceptable reception if recent local authority appointments in this field are to be regarded as significant. Though the Report's formal acceptance by the Government cannot be expected for some months, the problem, it is said, is now largely one of cash and a matter of time. And for Mr. Frederick Seebohm, it has meant a well-earned knighthood in the New Year's Honours List.

LAST year also produced a sparring partner for Seebohm in the form of the much criticised 'Green Paper' concerned with the future organisation of the health services.

It cannot be surprising that so radical a document that foresaw so many quite basic changes in the NHS structure and the slaughter of so many sacred cows, would have so sceptical a reception by those who saw the changes as a backward step. But as a vehicle for sounding professional opinion, it was surely something of a success. Its re-issue in 1970 in substantially modified form is awaited with as much anticipation as was the original document.

THE Royal Commission on Local Government also claimed its share of discussion time with recommendations which, if implemented, would create a local government organisation more in tune with the demands of the community.

In fact, the more one thinks about it, the more dramatic were the events of 1969. Take the problems of sub-normality hospitals for example. Public and professional opinion has at last managed to take the lid off a pot that has been quietly simmering for years. The exaggerations about the hospital service's poor relation have now been seen to be substantially true, and it is evident that each stirring of the pot will bring to light other problems on a similar theme.

THOUGH these events obviously overtook the new Department of Health and Social Security's first Report issued at the end of the year, we have witnessed the first steps of the new deal for the subnormal.

The treatment to the subnormality hospital service has started, but it will be a painful treatment, and no doubt a long one too. Hospi-

By

Derek Lancaster-Gaye

Assistant Director (Services) The Spastics Society

tals for those who need it, and community care for those who do not, is the basis of a sound charter for the subnormal. But it is one that will cost money and involve time. At least the first moves have been made and several hospital boards have taken steps to provide accommodation for patients outside the hospital environment.

THE Spastics Society has also been able to play its part in the early stages of this new treatment. Co-operation with the Hospital Board in the South East of England has made it possible for children from at least two old subnormality hospitals in Kent to be accommodated at the Lanthorne Hospital in Broadstairs, where the Society recently established a major hospital school at a cost of some £80,000.

Now 30 children who have lived in hospital for some years, will be able to receive the care and training appropriate to their ability in a modern, child-orientated and seaside environment. One can but hope that this will become a widely accepted pattern of development.

WE live in an age of throw away statistics. It is interesting to read, however, that of

the 123 new welfare residential homes built last year, three were purpose-built homes for the physically handicapped. The number of disabled or substantially handicapped is said to have risen by over 20,000 to a total of 204,000 during the year. Could this be that local authorities have improved their efforts to register the disabled in their areas? Yet when, in 1969, the total cost of the health and welfare services rose to the staggering sum of £1,490,000,000, the amount spent by local authorities on health and welfare projects amounted to £27,500,000.

At a time when the success of the new look hospital service must rely on simultaneous local authority community development it is evident that local spending must soon come from a much fatter purse.

1969 was also a year of speculation. 'And for a charity whose function is to point to the deficiencies and to help to meet them, speculation can also be a time of frustration. We must hope that 1970 will bring some of the answers and the beginnings of a new deal for the handicapped—a new deal in which the Society will continue to pioneer and to stimulate.'

"For centuries, society's answer to the deviant has been either to destroy him or to put him away from the rest of society. Putting away has, for the most part, meant putting away in institutions, many of them quite large and almost always out of reach of the normal population".

"Spending a few thousand pounds on new pre-fabricated huts may ease the problem in a small number of hopelessly overcrowded hospitals, but in the long run tarring up will hinder rather than help bring about a satisfactory and enduring solution."

"If it is one's function to fry eggs one inevitably breaks yolks. Let the Government resign itself to a great many broken yolks, but let at least the majority of people requiring it have breakfast."

Time for urgent action on subnormality

FOR the last two or three years The Spastics Society has paid special regard to the plight of the severely subnormal. It has taken the view that whilst only approximately 25 per cent of all cerebral palsied persons fall into this category, their fate is inseparable from the severely subnormal as a whole, and that it must work for a betterment of all subnormal persons, not only those who are spastics.

The term "subnormal" is essentially administrative and cultural. There are no absolute standards by which a person can be so categorised, and the term is quite different from those applied to ordinary diseases. A person either has measles or has not: but a person's intelligence relates to his environment and the demands that it makes on him. In some cultures a subnormal person can cope very well — indeed, in some occupations good intelligence can be a hindrance rather than a help.

Tolerance of modern society

The term "severely subnormal" refers to a group of persons who broadly speaking will never be self-reliant to an important degree. In practice it describes a rag-bag of disorders and deficiencies and it has been shown that a large percentage of people who are being cared for as severely subnormals are in fact of relatively good intelligence. Society has a very limited repertoire when role-casting its deviants. If one is seriously ill one will probably find oneself classified as severely subnormal.

There has been a great deal of research in this field, particularly in the United Kingdom, during the last decade or so, and broadly speaking, the purpose of this research work has been to differentiate between many types of person who have been given the same basic label, and to indicate to what extent treatment, training and the right sort of care can improve their conditions.

For centuries, society's answer to the deviant has been either to destroy him, or to put him away from the rest of society. Putting away has, for the most part, meant putting away in institutions, many of them quite large and almost always out of reach of the normal population.

Our increase in tolerance and the underlying humanitarianism of modern society has caused the institution to come under sharp attack, and many serious thinkers and research workers in this field feel that the institution is destructive of human values for both classes of inmate: patients and staff.

More than cash shortage

This point of view is often vigorously rebutted by those who are involved in the running of the institutions. Their defence is based upon two main propositions—one is that the institution presents the most economical way of dealing with the patients, and the other is the quite proper and valid defence that there are good institutions and bad institutions, and that rather than attack institutions generally, one should accept them as inevitable and work towards improving them. Recent research work has demonstrated that it is the quality of care that matters, and that a small home can produce the most inhuman forms of institutional care and that it is possible in a large institution to provide humane child-oriented care.

Much of the difficulty in institutions for the subnormal stems not only from the shortage of money, but from the medical/nursing type regimes which, no matter how human and kind the staff, make it extremely difficult for young children in particular to make satisfactory human relationships.

The whole subject is bedevilled by sterile

Decisions must be made says JAMES LORING Director of The Spastics Society



argument about whether we should have hospitals or hostels. The hospital staffs quite naturally fight a vigorous battle to protect and justify their work, and the proponents of hostels devote for too much time to denigrating the large institutions.

How, then, ought we to be thinking about the problem? I think that the answer is quite simple. We must think about it in terms of the subnormal themselves and their parents. It is their welfare and health that must be put before all other considerations.

It would be difficult in a short article to list the many categories of subnormal, but it has been demonstrated that a large number of people living in subnormality hospitals would do very much better in small units if these existed. There is much argument about the proportion that could be so cared for, and many of the arguments stem from limited sampling and disagreement on definition.

The other crucial issue is what shall be the future role of the subnormality hospital? Again there is much argument and discussion, but it is a fundamental fact that doctors and nurses are trained to treat and cure, and if they are to be successful at purely custodial work, the nurses in particular will require a quite different sort of training to that which they receive at the moment, and one doubts very much whether the finished article could then be called a nurse.

It seems to me that until we define the role of the subnormality hospital it will continue to be a depository for persons who are otherwise uncontainable, and because of this, the general conditions in the hospitals will deteriorate rather than improve.

Medical powerhouse

There are functions which subnormality hospitals could undertake far better than other units. They should, for example, be able to provide quite excellent assessment and diagnostic services. They should be able to provide certain types of short-term care. They can certainly provide the more specialised forms of medical treatment for those requiring them.

It is also possible to think of a hospital becoming, particularly through its assessment

and research activities, the medical and intellectual powerhouse of a constellation of services, and an ideal situation would be where in any given area there are available a variety of types of care.

Local Authorities have an important role to play here, and it seems natural and sensible that they should be responsible for day care whether it be junior training centres, adult training centres and supportive hospitals. They must have the money to provide these services, and they must also have the means to adapt houses, or design special houses, for parents who wish to keep their heavily handicapped children at home. Local Authorities must also have the money to provide proper professional supportive services.

The situation at the moment is bedevilled by lack of money and the administrative high wall which exists between Local Authorities and Regional Hospital Boards. That this wall has been pragmatically demolished in some areas is neither here nor there. A unified mental health service is required, and the Department's Papers on reorganisation of the National Health Service seems to indicate that such a unification is possible.

Concurrently with the problems of subnormality, the Government has to consider the Redcliffe-Maude proposals on the organisation of Local Government and also the proposals of the Seebohm Report, and there seems to have developed in high quarters an administrative arthritis.

The decisions which have to be made about the mental health service, the Government's Papers on the National Health Service, the Seebohm Report and the Redcliffe-Maude Report are in some measure inter-dependent. There are many interests involved and it will be quite impossible to obtain the concurrence of all concerned.

Held to ransom ?

It is therefore a classical decision-making situation, and the problems will only be resolved by determined, and if need be, ruthless Governmental decisions. These should be made as quickly as possible. If it is one's function to fry eggs, one inevitably breaks some yolks. Let the Government resign itself to a great many broken yolks, but let at least the majority of people requiring it have breakfast.

It seems that in certain sectors of Government decisions are made with ease and the most brutal and unacceptable decisions can be made and public feeling disregarded, but in the welfare sector all Governments tend to get held to ransom by their own staffs. If large sections of persons employed in Local Government or Central Government Services do not much like what is proposed, there is hell to pay. It is as if the public services are provided

for the benefit of, and by the consent of, the employees rather than for the consumers.

Another crucial matter as regards subnormality is the very large sums of money which will be required to mount any one of the various types of reorganisations that are being considered. It is not only a question of the total sum, but the question of a time span.

The problem, as has been shown by recent scandals, is one of great urgency. Spending a few thousands of pounds on new pre-fabricated huts may ease the problem in a small number of hopelessly overcrowded hospitals, but in the long run tarring up will hinder rather than help bring about a satisfactory and enduring solution.

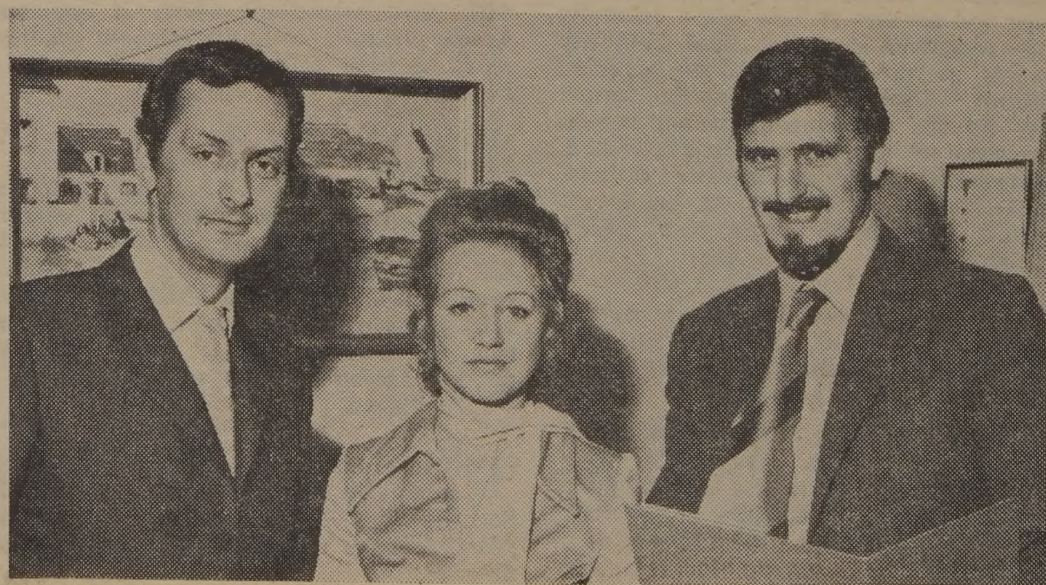
For those of us who work in the field there can be no doubt that the two Ministers concerned, Mr. Richard Crossman and Lady Serota, are deeply and sincerely concerned about the appallingly low standards of the subnormality sector of the Health Services. It is also quite clear that they are both giving a great deal of time and energy to bringing about a rapid improvement in the situation. Now, however, reports have appeared in the press that they are in disagreement. It would not be surprising if these were true; disagreements in situations of this sort are symptomatic of the severity of the crisis and the paucity of resources.

Help of Prime Minister

It seems to me that we have a right to expect the Prime Minister to intervene actively in the situation. He is known to feel deeply about problems of this sort. Conclusions must be rapidly reached about the future organisation of the Health Service, the reorganisation of Local Government and the reorganisation of Social Services. If one is to wait until there is a large measure of agreement from all concerned, little will be achieved and that which is achieved will stem from compromises and will satisfy no one. Once decisions have been reached in these fields they must be imposed firmly and, if need be, ruthlessly.

I am not hostile to consultation with all those concerned but I am quite sure that once they have been allowed their say there must be quick and firm decision-making. Subnormality, to some extent, is a side issue but it is one in which the progressives should be allowed their head and given the money to build a new Jerusalem. Whatever they achieve it could not be other than a very much better situation than exists at the moment; so low have we sunk.

CHOOSING A CHARMER



Judging the second of the Spastics League Club's Charm Girl competitions are (left to right) Francis Mathews — alias Paul Temple — Gloria Baptist Smith, Fashion Editor of "She" and Jimmy Hill.

A home for Hull Society

AFTER an 18-month search, Hull and District Spastics Society now has a home of its own. The Society has bought Sutton Manor, a large private house on the outskirts of Hull, for its Headquarters and a Day Care Centre, at a cost of £5,000.

Negotiations for the purchase of the manor, originally built as a vicarage, were completed in December and the Society hopes to be using the house by the early spring. The cost of adapting the building to suit the Society's needs could well cost another £5,000.

Capt. F. A. Jones, chairman of the Hull group, says Sutton Manor was the most ideally-suited building in the area that could be found. Some of the work needed to be done on the interior, he said, would probably be carried out by members and friends of the Society, although professional assistance would be needed for certain jobs.

The building comprises two large halls and a kitchen downstairs, with five upstairs rooms, and stands on one acre of land.

At first the house will be used as a Day Care Centre, but its eventual use, it is hoped, will be as an "all-purpose" Centre, probably including a workshop and provision for physiotherapy.

The house has been bought entirely from the Hull Society's funds, as a result of donations from firms and individuals and members' own efforts.

Formed 15 years ago, the Hull group has more than 150 members in the district and for several years has maintained a holiday home at the east coast resort of Bridlington.

SKEGNESS GROUP

A new local Group has been formed in Lincolnshire, called the Skegness Spastics Society. Officers have been elected as follows — Chairman, Mr. George Currie; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Reid; Secretary, Mrs. J. Pollock; and Treasurer, Mr. Gordon Stansfield.

NOW DURHAM NEEDS ANOTHER £20,000

The Durham County Spastics Society's appeal to Working Men's Clubs in the area has raised nearly £1,000.

The Group needs the money for its new Adult Residential Centre at Framwellgate Moor. Work has already started on the building, which is the first of its kind in the county. The walls and roof are finished and the Centre should be ready for occupation by the autumn.

The Centre will provide a home for 25 adult spastics

CARAVAN, four-berth, to let at Felixstowe. Write: Caravan, Ipswich & East Suffolk Spastics Society, 24 Waterloo Rd., Ipswich.

Splashes from the Spastics pool

This heading will become a familiar sight in Spastics News in future. Our friends at Regional Pool Promotions are so much a part of the broad picture of helping charity, and so many of our readers are (we hope) members of "The Spastics" that we intend to publish items of interest each month.

IN their capacity as area representatives and collectors for Regional Pool Promotions Limited, over 40,000 men and women at home and abroad are responsible for raising a considerable amount of money each week, but to many this wonderful effort just doesn't seem to be enough. For example, 1969 saw the introduction of a scheme involving supervisors and collectors in South Wales, which raised £190 and resulted in the installation of fish tanks in 15 wards of the Ely Hospital, Cardiff.

This achievement reached the ears of enthusiastic collectors in Lancashire who decided to donate their gift coupons and realised the sum of £261 for the Alder Hey Children's Kidney Fund. The Chairman of the Fund, Mrs. Audrey Wilson, on accepting the cheque from Mr. Bruce Benson, said "Although your organisation is directly concerned with spastic children, of whom we have a number among our patients at the hospital, I know all parents concerned will be overwhelmed with this generous and practical gift".

Did you know that "The Spastics" is the biggest charity pool in the world?

EAST now, to the Humber, where R.P.P. had a stall at the South Humberside Spastics Autumn Fair. Collector A. S. Webster organised a raffle which contributed to the total of £325 raised on behalf of the local Group. Apparently over 1,000 people attended the fair, which enabled local supervisors and collectors to publicise "The Spastics" Competition.

who will probably travel daily to Sunderland Work Centre.

Group Secretary, Mr. W. Geddes, said that the response from the clubs had been gratifying, but a further £20,000 still had to be raised towards the £62,000 total cost of the Centre. It would probably take three or four years for the Group to collect the full amount.

Good Deed Rewarded

Three young boys have raised £10 for the Salisbury and District Spastics Association by selling some of their toys to friends.

In return for their good deed the boys, Richard Cross and Graham and Kevin Smith, were invited to the Association's annual party.

THE Top Ten Pool took over from Football League champions Leeds United in popularity as far as Mr. H. Gibson of Seacroft was concerned, when he learned he had qualified for a first dividend in November! A cheque for £1,000 was presented to him by his official collector, Mr. Wilby Stead, who is himself a spastic. Although confined to a wheelchair Mr. Stead collects from some 300 people each week, and was understandably delighted with Mr. Gibson's success.

The area representative, Mr. R. Mills, arranged the presentation at the Holton Moor Social Club to coincide with a concert in aid of the Leeds Spastics Society. Apparently these concerts are a regular feature in Leeds. Area Pools supervisor Mr. Mills has promised further information on the club's activities, and it is hoped to feature them in a later edition.

Did you know that in addition to the Premium Bond distribution every member gets a free gift in rotation?

ALTHOUGH our first column wasn't in time for Christmas we are sure you would like to hear about Dominic who is

the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Poole. Mr. Poole is the area supervisor for Wellington, Somerset.

Dominic is a very severely handicapped spastic. He is Mr. and Mrs. Poole's second spastic child, and was 13 on Christmas Day.

Dominic is a patient in Sandhill Park Hospital near Taunton, and because he is so severely handicapped he had to spend his birthday in hospital away from home. It is not much fun to spend a birthday in hospital but at least Dominic had the consolation of all the Christmas decorations around him and the air of excitement which always pervades a hospital at the festive season. Let's hope that this helped to make up for being away from home. We're sure you will all join us in wishing Dominic a belated but very happy birthday.

If you are a member of "The Spastics" we hope you go in for the various extra competitions which are published in The Bulletin. Motor cars, colour T.V. sets and many cash prizes are given in free-to-enter contests.



Cheques make news in our "Splashes from the Spastics Pool" column this month.

Above: Mr. Wilby Stead presents £1,000 to Mr. H. Gibson. Below: Line-up of happy faces at the Alder Hey Children's Kidney Fund presentation. Left to right: Mrs. Audrey Wilson, Mr. Bruce Benson, Mrs. Jean Dodd, representatives of the Friends of Spastics League, Dr. Thomas McKendrick and Mrs. Hilda Leatham.

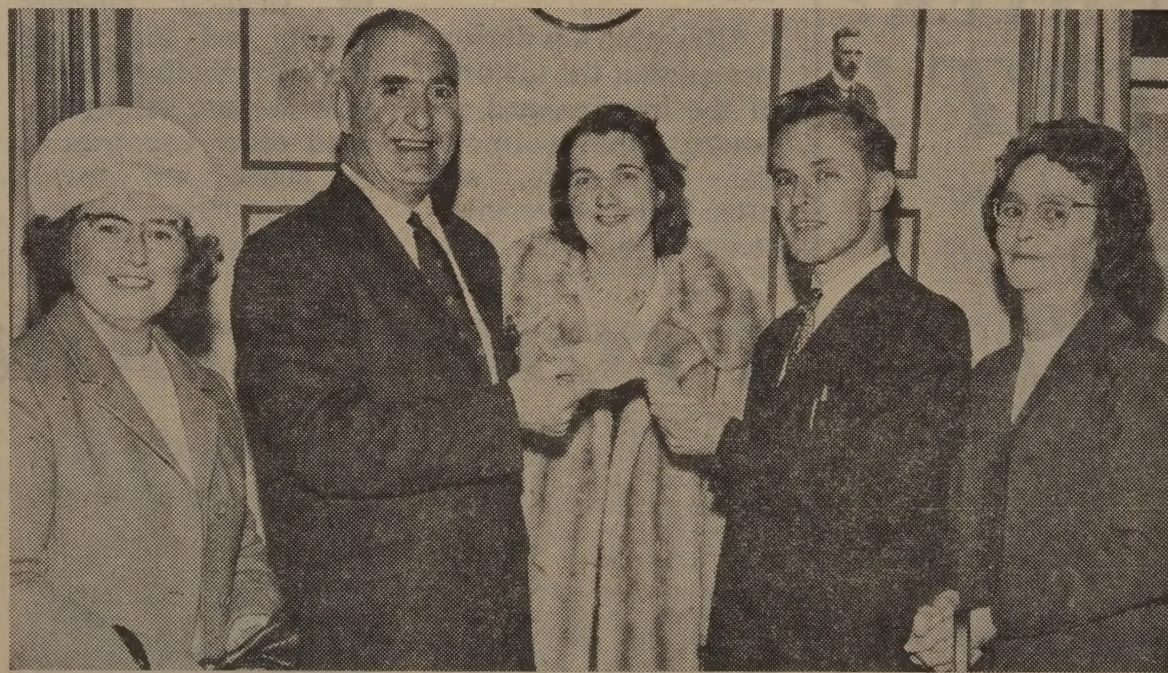
Hilary thanks the walkers

A magnificent seven walkers raised no less than £71 13s. 10d. with a sponsored walk alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal last year.

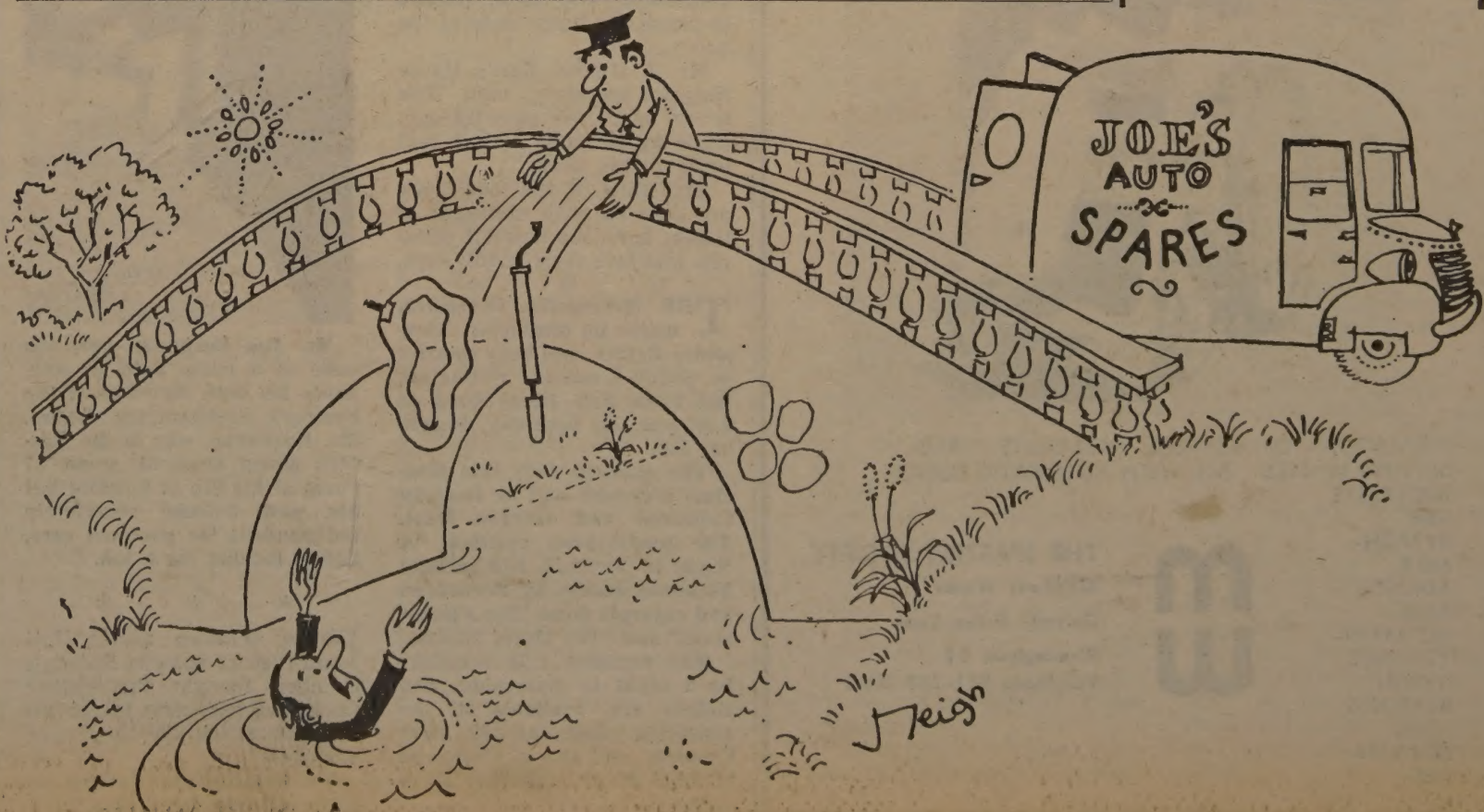
The magnificent seven were members of Geests, the Warminster banana and frozen food distributors, and their families. And at the firm's annual dinner and dance at Trowbridge Town Hall in January, a cheque for The Spastics Society was handed by area manager, Mr. Ray Slater, to Miss Hilary Van Geest, daughter of the company's director at the head office at Spalding.

During the evening, another £12 was raised for the Society from a raffle.

Thanking the walkers and sponsors, Miss Van Geest spoke about the work of the Society and she was promised that another walk will be held later this year.



Laugh with Meigh



Apart from anything else . . . IT'S SO EXPENSIVE TO BE DISABLED

A GOVERNMENT allowance should be provided for all disabled people to meet the extra expenses of disablement, according to Miss Mary Greaves, Honorary Director of the Disablement Incomes Group. In addition to helping to cope with the extra expenses brought about by their handicaps, it would encourage more of them to find employment, and give them a sense of independence.

She says that the money spent on providing an allowance would be an investment from which the country would reap more than adequate returns. It would enable more disabled people to earn a living wage, and to become productive.

BETTER OFF AT HOME

Under the present system many disabled people were discouraged from working, because they were financially better off by staying at home. This was because many of the benefits available to the unemployed disabled were cut as soon as they earned more than £5 per week.

"Disablement Resettlement Officers have told me that they have found it hard to advise some handicapped people to go to work, because they would lose money by doing so," she said.

"At present there are already two categories of disabled people who receive a pension, regardless of their other incomes. They are the war disabled and the industrially disabled.

"Why should there be discrimination between people such as spastics or polio victims, and people who are handicapped by industrial or war injuries? Surely all disabled people face the same problems.

EVERYONE CAN WORK

"A single man who is industrially disabled can receive up to about £23 per week from the Government—depending on the degree of disability—in addition to any compensation he might get. This is irrespective of what he might earn, and no-one is too disabled to work.

Miss Hargreaves said the allowance was badly needed because of the extra expenses which handicapped people incur. As a polio victim, severely disabled since she was three years old, she is only too well aware of these extra expenses.

"I am unable to go round supermarkets looking for the cheapest groceries," she said. "On the contrary I have to have everything delivered. That puts the grocery bill up.

"Clothing is another expense. Because I am entirely encased in steel, my clothes wear out at an alarming rate.

"I live in a council flat, and to help me in and out I had a hand rail fitted to the wall of the entrance. This cost me £5. If I had been unemployed, or if my earnings had been less than £4.10.0, I could have had it fitted free.

"I get free road tax for my car. But the other day it was too icy for me to get to the car. This meant that I had to telephone

for a taxi just so that I could get the driver to help me into my own car.

"I know of one spastic girl who is forced to spend £60 a year on shoes alone. This is because she has a dragging foot, and her shoes wear out in no time. Because she works she gets no allowance whatsoever. When the matter was taken up with the Inland Revenue she was told that no allowance could be made because she did not need special surgical shoes and neither did she wear out the shoes at her work.

"Another spastic, who is athetoid, finds that his sheets wear out extremely quickly, because of his restlessness in bed.

"There is a young spastic who is forced to wear leg irons, and who is also slightly deformed. Because of his deformity he must have his suits made specially for him, and he must have two pairs of trousers for each suit because his leg irons wear them out so quickly.

EXTRA COSTS

"Dry cleaning bills are often extremely high for many disabled people, especially spastics, who tend to spill their food and drink. If a disabled person goes to the theatre he is unable to sit in the cheaper seats, and has to pay extra. When on holiday disabled people must often go to the more expensive hotels, which have lifts and facilities to cope with their needs. Many disabled people need gadgets to help them around the home. There are innumerable extra expenses brought about by being handicapped.

"Many overseas countries provide financial support for the disabled. Surely Britain can do the same."

FOOTNOTE: Miss Greaves was later given a private interview by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson, to discuss the problems of disablement. After the interview she said: "The Prime Minister is extremely well informed on the problems, and he shows great sympathy with them. One is encouraged to think that as the economic situation in this country improves, the financial burdens carried by disabled people, will be given serious consideration by the Government."

Commenting on the points raised by Miss Greaves, the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring said:

"The Society has been in the forefront of every campaign to improve the incomes and living conditions of the disabled.

"Research has demonstrated that the majority of the handicapped are amongst the poorest of the community, and often living below subsistence level. They have

low incomes and high expenses simply because they are handicapped. Why should they—through no fault of their own—be the second class citizens of our affluent society?

"A nation can be judged by the manner in which it cares for its weakest citizens. Britain led the world with its Welfare State, now we are falling behind other countries in the benefits we provide for the people who need them most."



A first dividend winner in the Spastics League Club Pool, Mrs. J. A. Wells of Torquay, Devon, receives a cheque for £1,985. Making the presentation is comedian Gordon Peters (left) in his pantomime costume for "Puss in Boots" at a Torquay theatre. On the right is Mr. E. C. Partridge, Area Supervisor for Top Ten Promotions. (Photo by courtesy of Herald Express, Torquay)

Golden Beacons

BEACON clubs in the North of England held a record number of pushovers in 1969. Pierre the Clown, Jimmy Clitheroe, Freddy (Parrot-face) Davies, Jack Howarth and other "residents" of Coronation Street, together with assorted footballers and a trio of beauty queens between them knocked over 131 piles of pennies. These brought in £4,644, the highest year's total ever amassed in the Region.

Mr. Dennis Mills of Leeds has formed a Beaconsers Concert Party, a volunteer group which boosts Beacon Club funds by entertaining customers in local clubs and pubs.

Nearer to the target

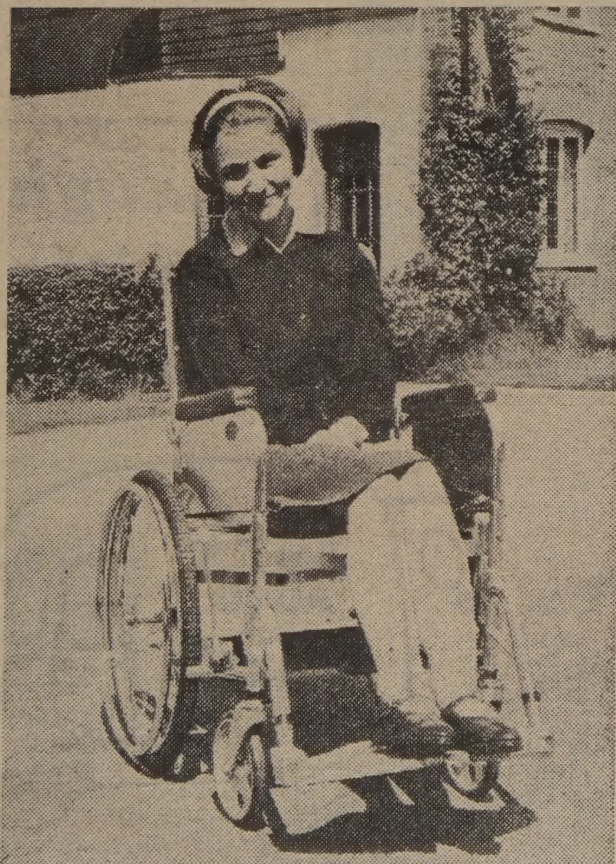
Two cheques, totalling £210, were presented by Miss Celia Proffitt of Fenton, to Mrs. Elsie Ashley, President of the Staffordshire Spastic Association Appeal Fund, at the Group's annual children's party.

The first was the £150 proceeds of a coffee evening held by Miss Proffitt. The other had been sent to her on behalf of the Longton Tudor Bingo Old Age Pensioners' charity.

This money brings the Group a little closer to its appeal target of £2,000 which will help towards the provision of a purpose-built Centre for treatment and social activities.

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Telephone 021-783 6083

From prison with love — teddy bears

A PRISONER in Durham Jail has brought pleasure to spastics and other handicapped children at Earl's House Hospital, Durham, by making teddy bears for them.

As the prison authorities do not allow the use of metal parts, he has devised an ingenious link-up of buttons, cardboard, and nylon thread to fasten the furry limbs of the toys.

Mr. J. Owens, Earl's House Hospital secretary, said: "The teddy bears are painstakingly made by someone with a real pride in his work."

The walls of the man's cell are covered with messages of thanks from the hospital children who love their cuddly toys.

THE Metropolis Orchestra, under its conductor, Alexander Bryett, will help spastics by giving a concert at Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, February 7th.

The soloists with this first-class orchestra will be Dorothy Copeland and Gordon West. The programme, entitled "A Night in Vienna", will include Viennese dances by Beethoven and excerpts from "Die Fledermaus" and "The Merry Widow."

The occasion will certainly be a night to remember, and tickets are available at the reception desk at 12 Park Crescent, and also at Chappells of Bond Street and other agencies.



Mr. Jim Buchanan cuts the cake at a party held to celebrate his 50th birthday at the Society's Southampton Hostel. Mr. Buchanan, who is the Hostel's oldest resident, spent 37 years of his life in hospital but has now become completely independent for personal care, and is looking for a job.

IF the children among Hull and District Spastics Society's members thought that Father Christmas had gone to ground after December 25, they were mistaken.

For Santa Claus made a belated—or perhaps it was early

—appearance at their party in Hull in January.

And he came, though none of the youngsters suspected, in the person of their president, Hull building contractor, Mr. L. Spooner.

About 120 members and parents attended the party and Father Christmas handed out gifts, plus fruit and sweets, to the young and adult spastics.

SOME 250 people from as far as West Wiltshire and Bristol attended Bath and Districts' third annual wine and cheese party in the new refectory, Bath University, and raised over £140.

This compares with £114 the previous year.

Guests this time included the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath, Coun. and Mrs. Alexander Polson, who drew the raffle.

TEENAGE members of the Cwmbran United Churches Council held a conker-playing marathon in the Town Centre recently.

More than 30 young people took part in the contest, which raised over £100 for local charities. Donations included a gift

BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

of £5 from the nuns of Llantarnam Abbey.

The money was divided between a Caerlon Children's Home, an inter-denominational Church Enquiry Bureau, and the Cwmbran Work Centre for spastics.

A LITTLE boy of four has had one of his paintings shown for spastics' funds. He is Andrew Hall, of Hastings, Sussex, and his picture appeared in an exhibition of paintings by his mother, Mrs. Geraldine Hall. Proceeds from the show were donated to the East Sussex Spastics Society.

PETERBOROUGH and District Spastics Society has donated £250 to the Wilfred Pickles school. This will go towards the £700 needed to cover part of the school's swimming pool.

Matching problem wanted

When a Halifax woman goes shopping to buy shoes for her daughter, she always has to buy two pairs. For the daughter—who is a spastic—has feet of different sizes.

Her left foot takes size four, and the right size three. To have shoes specially made would cost £20, and it is therefore cheaper to buy two pairs.

Now the woman is trying to contact a child who requires a size three left foot and a size four right, to avoid wasting the boots that her child is unable to use.

FELLOWSHIP'S MOVING PARTY

The South East London Spastics Fellowship has changed its meeting place after 10 years at the same premises. The organisation now meets free of charge at a community centre run by Greenwich Council.

The move was celebrated with a party attended by 40 members. It was organised by Mrs. Florence Downs, the mother of one of the members, with help and donations from her friends, neighbours and local shopkeepers.

Leslie's cash-crowded days



LESLIE Crowther, ex-chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and now a Vice-President of the S.O.S., is a tireless worker for spastics, and the pictures above show him in action on their behalf.

PICTURE LEFT, shows him accepting a cheque for £570 for the S.O.S. from Mr. Trevor Turner, chairman of

the Publicity Club of London. The collection was taken at a luncheon held by the Club at the London Hilton. In return Leslie provided the company with some greatly appreciated post-luncheon entertainment without fee. Among the guests was James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society.

Every guest at the luncheon received a copy of the new

S.O.S. brochure. In his introduction, Mr. Turner paid tribute to the work being done for spastics and the great need for funds to help the stars with their projects.

"As Chairman of the Publicity Club," he said, "asked to nominate my own charity for the annual luncheon appeal I needed no persuasion to put forward Mr. Leslie Crowther's eloquently expressed

case on behalf of spastics. I ask all present to look at the brochure in which there appears a photograph of a spastic boy in a wheelchair who might have been your brother or your son. I ask everybody to donate as much as they possibly can."

And the response was £570 from about 800 people. Well done Publicity Club!

PICTURE RIGHT shows Leslie

gleeful after demolishing a pile of pennies at the Dolphin pub, Kingston, Surrey. Also in the photograph are licensee Mr. Ben Wiles and his wife Doris.

The money in the beacon, together with collections made during the year by Mr. and Mrs. Wiles amounted to £238 11s. 4d.

(Photo by courtesy of Surrey Comet)

Advice from MICHAEL REYNOLDS, Spastics Week Co-ordinator:

Plan NOW for success in July

SOMEONE once said to me, "How nice it must be to have to worry about only one week of the year—Spastics Week." As I quickly pointed out this, unfortunately, is not the case, as the other 51 weeks of the year are just as important, and if they have not been used wisely the 52nd all-important Week falls flat. And when the calendar changed from '69 to '70 greater impact was given to the message—Spastics Week 1970 is THIS YEAR, only a few months away.

Local Groups and other affiliated Societies were understandably reluctant to plan Spastics Week in detail before Christmas but in many cases much of the important groundwork has been completed. Local Co-ordinators and Press Officers have been appointed and applications made for local flag day collections.

Programme

However, this still leaves many aspects of preparation still untouched and it is these that must be completed in the next month or two. The recruitment of outside help, the evaluation of fund-raising schemes, and the preliminary arrangement of a programme of events are all tasks to be completed by Easter. Then the

last two months before the Week can be spent on detailed arrangement of events and publicity.

Timetable

Many requests have been made for reminders of our recommended timetable for preparation and the Editor of Spastics News has kindly agreed to provide space for these. The first appears on this page today.

I think it may be helpful to expand on three aspects of this preparation. Firstly, the prob-

lem, which must be overcome, of recruiting outside help. Much of this must come from organisations, clubs, schools, and a public meeting of representatives from these should be held at an early stage to enlist their support. We have a special leaflet to go out with invitations to this meeting and by these means Groups may not only find helpers for flag days, sponsored walks, and so on, but also organisers for specific events.

Secondly, fund-raising. An ambitious approach is urged on this major aspect of the Week. One or two large-scale money-making activities should be contained in every Group programme. Sponsored swims and walks, door knocks and flag days were the hot favourites in 1969. A comprehensive fund-raising manual to be issued shortly will give detailed advice on all these and many more novel ideas.

10,000 needed

We resolved some time ago that one really national fund-raising effort should take place and this will be the Flag Day. Permission has been given for

street collections in Greater London and in many other areas on Saturday, July 11th. A similar collection will be held in the City of London on July 10th. To ensure a successful Flag Day for spastics, we need at least 10,000 collectors and we must start recruiting them now. Further details of organisation and media will be circulated shortly.

Publicity

We must also remember the publicity opportunities of Spastics Week. Although the major coverage in local newspapers will take place in the weeks immediately preceding July 5th, a preliminary appeal for helpers can be made now. The Press should also be invited to any public meetings. Public relations is a vital job and each Group must have its own Press Officer. We will endeavour to supply him with as much information and advice as possible.

An important aspect of publicity is the use of literature. Samples of posters and car stickers have already been issued and leaflet samples will soon be available. Delivery of literature will be ahead of last year and it is a major priority to ensure effective distribution locally.

Spastics Week 1970 must and will be a major campaign. We all need money desperately and the Week is a great opportunity for the community at large to share in our work. If we are to be really successful we have a lot of work to do before July. But the rewards will be great.

IN THE BIRTHDAY POST—AN M.B.E. FOR MRS. PARKER

AMONG the cards and parcels which arrived at the Lancaster Training Centre for Mrs. Violet Parker on her birthday—November 22—last year, was a letter which made her gasp with amazement. It informed her that she was to be awarded the M.B.E. in the forthcoming New Year's Honours.

"I thought I must be dreaming," said Mrs. Parker, who is Office Training Manager at the Centre. "It's the sort of thing that happens to other people, but not to yourself. I feel very honoured."

Mrs. Parker began working for spastics in 1959 when the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society embarked on a programme of teaching spastics office work. She answered an advertisement for an instructress and was accepted.

CAREER

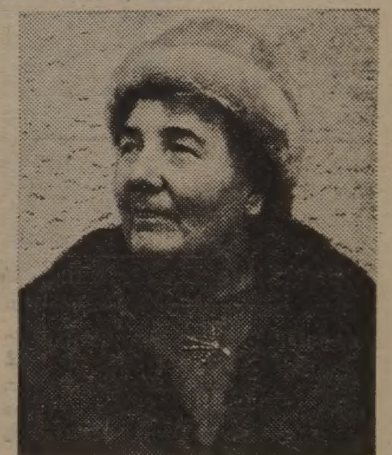
"I was well versed in office routines and the use of office machinery," she said. "Much of my career had been spent in office work and before joining the Society I was in charge of an accounts department."

"For many years I had intended to work with handicapped people, although I had originally planned to work with the mentally handicapped. This was because I have a daughter who is mentally handicapped. She is a Mongol."

"Now working with spastics has become my consuming interest. It is more a vocation than a job. At first I worked alone, teaching only spastics from the Stockport area. Later The Spastics Society, and the Ministry of Labour, both of whom had been watching our work closely, decided to sponsor the scheme."

"In 1963 we were provided with a new Centre at Chester. So for a while I was running both Centres. Then in 1968 everything was brought under one roof at our present Centre at Lancaster."

"Once grants became available for spastics to live away



MRS. PARKER

from home, it was possible for us to accept students from all over the country. Now we can take on up to 29 students and there are three teachers—besides myself—to instruct them.

"Most students undergo a six-month course although this can be extended if necessary. Our success rate is high, and at least 75 per cent of the spastics who train at Lancaster are able to find office employment when they leave."

NORMAL LIFE

Not only does Mrs. Parker give her students training in office work, but she tries to help them to fit in with normal life and normal working conditions as well. They learn to relax, to go to theatres and cinemas, to travel by public transport and to mix with the community at large.

"I was thrilled when I learned about the M.B.E.," she said. "But the honour must be shared among the many people who have made this work possible."

DEATH OF SECRETARY

The death has been announced of Mr. Reginald Victor Wright, Hon. Secretary of the Isle of Wight Spastics Society. Mr. Wright, who was 64, had been secretary of the Group since its formation 14 years ago, and he worked hard for the provision of a special spastics unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport.

SPASTICS WEEK 1970 — JULY 5-11

Check list for Group planning. Complete by the end of February.

Co-ordinator and Press Officer appointed (names and addresses to Park Crescent).
Approach outside organisations for support.
Evaluate major fund-raising activities.
Decide target priorities.
Decide how outlying districts can be covered.
Invite ideas from all Group members.
Form youth group.
Order literature.

An expanded timetable is on Pages 22-3 of the Campaign Guide. Further copies are available from the Society's Headquarters at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, or from the Society's Regional Offices.

"Sparkle" — the boat designed for wheelchair sailors

NOT so long ago nearly all active sports were completely out for handicapped people, especially if they happened to be confined to wheelchairs. Now up-to-date design techniques and modern developments, are opening up new horizons for the disabled.

The latest development in this field is a revolutionary new boat, called "Sparkle", which has been specially designed for use by people in wheelchairs. It is the first boat of its kind in the world. The 45 ft. long catamaran has been designed so that handicapped people can not only travel aboard her, they can play a very large part in handling her as well.

"Sparkle" has a very wide beam (16 feet) which allows for plenty of deck space. As a result there is room for up to 10 wheelchairs to move about easily. The stability of its catamaran hull combined with the small sail area, ensure that the vessel travels with the minimum amount of rolling motion in seaway.

The catamaran is powered by a diesel engine which develops 40 horse power, giving her a speed under power alone of 12 knots. In addition she has a lugger rig with a mainsail of 290 square feet and a mizzen sail of 144 square feet.

All the sails are rigged so

that they can be handled by a chair-bound crew. However, there will be a full-time skipper aboard whenever she is being used by handicapped people. The controls are so arranged that the skipper can take care of any operation without leaving the bridge.

CASH FROM CHARITY

"Sparkle" was financed by a charity known as S.P.A.R.K.S. It is a voluntary body comprising sportsmen of all ages.

The boat was built by W. Souter and Son Limited, at Cowes, and was designed by Angus Primrose.

A S.P.A.R.K.S. spokesman said that she would be available for use free of charge by associations of disabled people throughout Britain, under the co-ordination of the Central Council for the Disabled. For its first season the vessel will be moored at Thames Ditton.

So if you fancy a life on the ocean waves — "Sparkle" provides the opportunity.



Roger (who sailed the Channel) says . . .

HOW will "Sparkle" stand up to use by disabled people? Spastics News asked Roger Holt, Chairman of the London '62 Club, to give her the "once over" at the Boat Show, held at Earls Court. Roger, who made news last year when he and another spastic, Peter West, sailed their catamaran across the Channel, was most impressed. Here is his report.

On my way to the Boat Show I pondered how one could

adapt a catamaran design to make it safe to carry passengers who would not be able to move with speed. My experience has proved that speed is often necessary afloat.

I found "Sparkle" tucked in a quiet corner of the Boat Show and was very surprised to find how large a craft she is—45 ft. long and 16 ft. in beam. She looked most impressive.

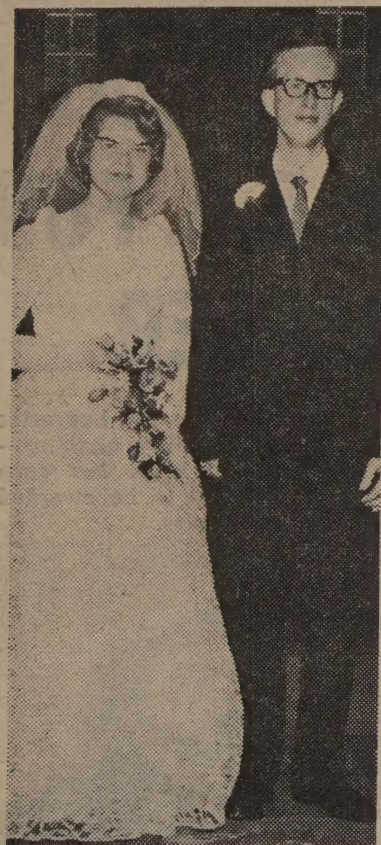
After introducing myself I was invited on board by Sir John

Power, one of the people responsible for finding the money to pay for and maintain "Sparkle". I then looked over the deck layout and cabin of the boat. My original impression of the craft was correct. I just could not fault this great design.

Angus Primrose has thought of everything. Even the deck is flat and on one level throughout. Wheelchairs will be able to move around over the decks with ease. Cooking facilities are adequate, and the

toilet is surprisingly large. All movements for controlling the vessel, either under power or sail, are located by the skipper's platform so that the professional skipper will have complete charge in the event of mishap.

"Sparkle" will begin her career based at Thames Ditton and will be used on inland waters for her first season. After this trial period she will head for the open sea. I'm sure she will give real enjoyment where it is badly needed. I wish her good luck!



Miss Margaret Annal, former Secretary of the Nottingham '62 Club, was recently married to Mr. Alan Montgomery of Exeter. The couple met during a cruise to Madeira.

This year's West Regional Conference of The Spastics Society will be held at the University of Bristol on May 2nd, 1970. The theme will be "The Adult Spastic." Among the speakers will be a representative of the Department of Employment and Productivity.

A senior housemother is required in this school for severely handicapped children. Salary according to N.J.C. scales, i.e. from £925 p.a. Previous experience and a child care, N.N.E.B. or similar qualification is essential. Pleasant single accommodation. At least 6 weeks guaranteed holiday. Apply: Headmistress, Ingfield Manor School, Five Oaks, BILLINGSBURST, Sussex.

Ambitious story of a Centre

"Cerebral Palsy and the Young Child," edited by Susan H. Blencowe. E. S. Livingstone Ltd. 30s.

The Centre for Spastic Children, Cheyne Walk, was founded 14 years ago. Since then it has expanded considerably and there has been enormous opportunity to study the needs of children with cerebral palsy.

This book has been written by members of staff at the Centre and describes the causes and conditions of cerebral palsy as well as social, educational and therapeutic aspects of the problem.

The book is directed towards anyone working with cerebral palsied children and to parents and families. This is very am-

bitious but on the whole the book achieves its aim and there is plenty to interest everyone.

The chapters on the condition itself are very useful, and the glossary is helpful. It is a pity that some of the paragraphs are so long. This gives some pages a rather forbidding

the foundation and development of the Centre on the site of the Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children, and of the work of the Friends of the Centre. Admiral Godfrey founded the Centre and has maintained a vigorous interest in its efforts and achievements. It

sturdy wooden toys, which will stand up to rough treatment by two to seven-year-olds. Most of the items described have been made in the workshop of the Nursery School Association. They range from scooters, wheeled trucks and a climbing horse to jigsaws and smaller

herself, the majority of women are not expert carpenters.

However, most people could probably tackle the section entitled "waste material toys." This gives some good ideas for inexpensive Christmas and birthday presents.

"The Importance of Caring" by Barbara J. Balshaw ('Priory' Care and Welfare Library), 10s.

The author of this paperback is herself a professional Social Worker with wide experience in both Local Authority and Voluntary Organisation fields.

The book is a plea for the social worker to use her heart as well as her head. She must, says the author, genuinely care about the people she is trying to help, and treat them as human beings in their own right.

This theme is so obvious that one wonders why the book needed to be written at all. The author states that though mainly intended for trained social workers, it may be of help to those "who want to know how best to care for a handicapped relative or friend."

Anne Plummer

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

appearance although in fact the text is very easy to read. These chapters and those on the psychological and educational aspects will probably be of the most general interest.

There is a certain amount of repetition in the chapters contributed by therapists. Some of this repetition is unnecessary, although it does emphasise the overlap of disciplines in this work, and the necessity for everyone concerned with the care of cerebral palsied children to be working together. There are many useful practical suggestions in these chapters.

The book is rounded off with a comprehensive account of

is to him that this most welcome addition to the literature is dedicated.

Moyna P. Gilbertson.

Toys for tough treatment

"Making Nursery Toys" by Nancy Catford (Elek Books Ltd.) — 12s 6d.

This book deals mainly with

educational toys which help teach shapes and colours.

Although it does not specifically cover toys for handicapped children, the book could prove very useful to anyone trying to equip a play group for spastics on limited funds.

The "repairs" section might be helpful to local Groups who are given broken and worn-out toys either for re-sale, or for use in their own centres.

In the home, fathers would probably benefit from the book more than mothers, as most of the toys described need a fair amount of skill at woodwork. Although the author states that she has made many of the toys

Give, guess, and win

MOST people go into a public house with the idea of emptying a bottle or two. But customers at the Old Inn, Congresbury, near Weston-super-Mare, were asked to help fill a large whisky bottle—with money.

It was all part of a new fund raising idea, to bring in money for spastics and the mentally handicapped. Mr. Bill Austin—landlord of the Old Inn—who has a spastic daughter, called the scheme a "Guess-timation."

The customers who dropped money into the bottle were invited to guess how much money the bottle would hold. The six most accurate received prizes ranging from a bottle of sherry to a coffee mug.

The bottle held a total of £42 4s. 6d. which was presented to the Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped. The money will go towards providing holidays for mothers caring for severely handicapped children.

Mr. Austin's daughter Madeleine helps with the running of the Old Inn. She is also a very keen dog breeder.

"Eyes down" brings cash to Exeter

Bingo sessions held at Tiverton, Devon, since 1966 have raised over £2,000 for the Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society.

The sessions are run by Mr. Tony Ellis, himself a spastic, who has had a room at the Exeter Spastics Centre named after him in recognition of his work for the Group.

Mr. C. Vranich, Group Chairman, said that the Exeter Centre was one of the finest in the country and plans were under way for extensions costing £40,000 which would make provision for 30 more children.

ANGLERS AID GROUP

A fishing championship organised by the North Western Sea Angling League has raised £150 for the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society.

Over the past few years the Group has received more than £530 from local anglers.

Jigs, jinks and jokes — and all happening in the Board Room



The Hammersmith Morris Men perform an old folk dance called Constant Billy.



Members of the SPYDER Committee line up for the finale of their entertainment at the Jamboree.



The Hammersmith Morris Men's hobby horse raised a laugh at the Jamboree Barn Dance.



The Rev. Kenneth Loveless, well known for his rollicking sea shanties, accompanies himself on the concertina.

A SPECIAL Saturday in January will go on record as being the first day on which a clog dance was performed in the Board Room at The Spastics Society's Headquarters at Park Crescent. Extensive researches indicate that neither the Bacca Pipes Jig nor the Hole in the Wall had been danced there until that day either.

But then it was the first time that the '62 Clubs had held a New Year Jamboree. Anything could have happened and most things did.

The three dances were performed during a Barn Dance, which was part of the Jamboree programme. Star performers at the dance were the Hammersmith Morris Men who include London '62 Club Chairman Roger Holt among their members.

Those dodgy leaps

"I've been a Morris dancer for some time now," said Roger. "It's great fun. We've given performances all over Britain and on the Continent. It can be a bit dangerous though. Some dancers leap about four feet in the air which can be dodgy in a low ceilinged room."

Another star performer at the Barn Dance was the Reverend Kenneth Loveless, Dean of Hackney, who is an accomplished folk singer. He sang a number of sea shanties, and accompanied himself on the concertina.

Roger Holt proved his versatility by singing two numbers, "Whip Jamboree" and "Lord of the Dance." When he wasn't singing or dancing

he played drums with the "Redwoods" band which kept the music flowing. When they paused for breath John Kirkpatrick played country dance music on his melodion.

When the Barn Dance was over the 100 or so spastics who attended the jamboree sought a different scene at Fitzroy Square where a discotheque was in progress. There were flashing coloured lights, way-out beat music and two disc jockeys — Brian Hargreaves and Peter Scott — to keep the party swinging until 1.30 a.m.

Countrywide

Spastics who attended the Jamboree came from all over Britain. About 20 of them stayed at the Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square.

They were taken on a coach tour of London, and shown places of historical interest such as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey, by a semi-professional courier, Mr. John Lewis. They were also treated to a film show, "Billy Liar," at Park Crescent.

After the Jamboree Lundheon, for which guests included the Rev. Kenneth Loveless, Mr. Bill Hargreaves, President of the Association of '62 Clubs, and Mrs. P. West, Vice-President of the London '62 Club, a surprise entertainment was performed by members of SPYDER. This was a revue comprising comic sketches and musical acts.

The Jamboree was organised by the London '62 Club.



Gail Wills, Anthony Sutcliffe and Susan Hercus of SPYDER were a popular trio.



Members of the 62 Clubs wait to board their coach at the Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, before being taken on a tour of London.

Caravan fund helps again

The annual supper organised by the social committee of Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society was attended by 85 people.

During the evening a cheque for £100 was presented to the Chairman of the parent-staff association of Langside spastics school. The money was donated by the Bluebird Caravan charity fund and will go towards the Group's hostel appeal.

This is the second cheque which the Group has received from Bluebird Caravans.

Darts marathon misses target but raises cash

Six formers from a school at West Kirby, Lancashire, fell well short of their target in a darts marathon to raise money for spastics. The nine schoolboys set out to score more than 1,000,000 in 24 hours, but they reached only 303,821.

Nevertheless the darts marathon—sponsored by parents and pupils at the school—provided a valuable contribution towards the Chester Spastics Association.

One of the pupils, team captain John Allen, 17 scored 100,000 in an individual effort. And the school's groundsman, Jim Tolan, who held his own darts marathon, scored 321,435. But then he belongs to a darts team which tops the Wirral League.

£3,374 FROM SWIMMERS

Organisers of a sponsored swim in aid of handicapped children at Sheffield, Yorkshire, expected to raise about £500 but much to their delight, £3,374 was realised. Over 1,000 swimmers and 20,000 sponsors took part.

The money completed a £40,000 total which was needed for a swimming-pool to be shared by pupils of two special schools in the area. These are Oaks Park School for the physically handicapped and the Chantry School for cerebral palsied children.

Southampton's busy year

During 1969, employees of the Work Centre run by the Southampton Spastics Society have produced for sale—826 stools, 857 cushions, 547 dusting gloves, 108 footrests, 950 small stools, 650 fabric-covered children's balls and thousands of wire coat-hangers. The printing department earned over £750.

The centre has an average daily attendance of 48 workers.

Spastics raise £50 in swim

Two spastic members of Marlin Swimming Club for disabled people, Brighton, raised £50 during a sponsored swim, it was announced at the club's annual meeting. Other members have won national awards during the past year.

The club helps disabled people to gain confidence in the pool. Many go on to swim from the beaches and take part in competitive swimming.

Parents hit by "absurd" tax

THE Spastics Society plans to protest about an "utterly absurd" purchase tax ruling which penalises the parents of severely handicapped children.

The tax has been slammed on large towelling napkins, needed by severely handicapped spastic children with incontinence problems. These older children need a 30 inch napkin—just three inches larger than the standard size of 27 inches. The standard nappie is free of tax, the larger size pays 13½ per cent, which adds 8s. 6d. to the purchase price per dozen.

Shocked

Because the larger napkins are unobtainable in the shops, the Society ordered bulk supplies direct from the mills for resale to parents at cost, and was shocked to find the purchase tax imposed.

A spokesman for the Society said: "We are angry because parents of handicapped children already face heavy financial problems in order to provide the many extras needed. Why should they have to pay an extra 8s. 6d. to the Government for napkins which are an absolute necessity? It is a pity that the so-called Welfare State has to obtain taxes by penalising the very people who most need its help."



LITTLE ANGELA STARRED WITH TOM JONES

TOM JONES must have met countless attractive girls in his career as a pop star. But few could have been quite so appealing as the wide-eyed charmer he worked with one Friday in January.

She is Angela Smith, aged seven, of King Edward Road, Walthamstow, who is a spastic. Angela had been chosen to ap-

pear with Tom on an American charity programme for United Cerebral Palsy of New York City.

Wearing a brand new pink dress bought specially for the occasion, Angela—whose parents are from Guyana—was driven to the A.T.V. studios at Boreham Wood to make the recording. She was accompanied by her six-year-old brother, Claude—the two are inseparable—her mother, Mrs. Winifred Smith, and Miss Brigid Stevenson, Appeals Officer for The Spastics Society.

Feeling 10 feet tall, she marched to the make-up room

for a once-over with the powder puff. Then she trembled with excitement as Tom Jones, the man that many women would give their eye teeth to meet, walked in to chat with her.

She made her T.V. debut using a walking frame, and smiled charmingly at Tom Jones as he spoke of the problems faced by spastics. Meanwhile, Claude waited manfully in the wings, ready with a word of encouragement for his sister.

Soon it was all over, and Angela and Claude rushed home to tell their brothers and sisters of their adventure.

A drop of something medieval



About £100 was raised by Trowbridge branch of Bath and Districts' Spastics Society which held a medieval banquet in Lacock Abbey, the home of Mrs. K. M. Burnett-Brown and her family in January.

Invitations read: "The Lord of the Manor summons you . . .", and guests included Mrs. Burnett-Brown, and her son and daughter, Mr. Anthony and Miss Janet Burnett-Brown.

Pages were 11-year-old Rob Hamilton and 12-year-old Andrew Pike. After an appeal for donations by Bath and Districts' chairman, Brigadier Trevor Mossman, Rob and Andrew collected a total of £24 in their caps.

Photograph: King Arthur (Mr. Gordon Pike) is served with a drop of what did them good in olden times by page Rob Hamilton at the medieval banquet.

(Picture by courtesy of Bath Evening Chronicle)

Here's to another dancing success

LAST year's Spastics Games Ball was such a success, that Mrs. R. W. Monzani, who organised it, has decided to hold another this year. The ball, together with a sponsored walk and children's dancing matinee, raised about £1,000 for spastics.

This year's dance will be held on July 4—the Saturday of the Spastics Games weekend, and just before Spastics Week. The venue will be Ashlyn's School, at Berkhamsted, the same as last year.

Nat Temple and his Band have already agreed to play, and a cabaret is being arranged. A running buffet will be held throughout the dance, and several bars will be operating.

"We hope to make this event an even bigger success than last year," said Mrs. Monzani. "The 1969 dance was really a try out, and we only sold 200 tickets. But everyone said that it was one of the best events of its kind they had been to."

Tickets for the dance will cost £3 10s. each. Details from Mrs. Monzani at Little Rushmore, High Bois Lane, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire.



The South Humberside Spastics Society has started a playgroup in Cleethorpes for spastic children between three and five years of age. It is run by Mrs. Edna Coulbeck, a dedicated Group worker and Mrs. Jill Isaksen, who for 12 years has been involved with playgroups for unhandicapped children. When she decided to take up similar work with spastics, Mrs. Isaksen spent some time helping in special units to learn more about handling and helping disabled children.

Picture shows Mrs. Coulbeck (left), and Mrs. Isaksen with some of the spastic children. (Photo by courtesy of Grimsby Evening Telegraph).

Kathleen and Audrey are golden girls

THE courage and determination of two spastic girls have been rewarded with the news that they have both achieved the ultimate success in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They are Audrey Williamson, 21, who lives in a hospital at Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and Kathleen Butterworth, 19, of Leeds, both of whom have gained the Gold Award.

Audrey is very severely disabled and has no real use of her limbs. But spurred on by her youth worker she embarked on the Award Scheme while at the Wilfred Pickles School, at Stamford in Lincolnshire.

21st Surprise

She gained her Bronze and Silver Awards at the School, and pressed on with the scheme after she left. On her 21st birthday last year, she learned that she was to be awarded the Gold. It was presented to her by Dickie Henderson, the Stars Organisation for Spastics Chairman, at Scotton's Bank Hospital, last month.

Now that she has the Gold, Audrey does not intend to sit back and relax. She is a keen member of a youth club for the disabled, in which she plays an active part. And because of her

success, another spastic girl in the Hospital has embarked upon the scheme. Audrey is doing everything she can to encourage her.

Kathleen Butterworth now works in an office at Leeds. She did most of her work in the Award Scheme while at the Thomas Delarue School, at Tonbridge, and is the second student from the school to gain the Gold Award. The first was Michael Chope, who received his at Buckingham Palace last year.

History Projects

To win her Award, Kathleen did voluntary work in a nursing home, she worked at a police station and at a hospital, and wrote essays on her work. In 1968 she travelled to the Scilly Isles and carried out projects on the history of the islands and on local shipwrecks. In addition she embarked on a course of Bible study, and wrote a thesis for the examiners.

The Thomas Delarue School has 26 students undergoing the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at present. It was the Duke who opened the School, and presented the first Bronze Awards won there. It is expected that more Gold Award successes will be announced before very long.

Director's Post

The Rev. O. Lloyd-Roberts, Director of the Manchester and District Spastics Society, is to be inducted as minister of Heaton Mersey Congregational Church.

He will continue working for spastics at the same time.

200,000 people *
read Spastics News
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